CITY OF CAMBRIDGE



BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

51 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-1732 = Telephone 617-349-4361 = TTY: 617-492-0235 Fax: 617-349-4366 = Email: Elections2@cambridgema.gov = Website: www.cambridgema.gov/election

COMMISSIONERS Ethridge A. King, Jr. Larry W. Ward Charles J. Marquardt Victoria A. Harris EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tanya L. Ford-Crump

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING Minutes of March 10, 2021

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm on March 10, 2021 via Zoom.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Ethridge King

Present

Commissioner Charles Marquardt

Present

Commissioner Larry Ward

Present

Commissioner Victoria Harris

Present

Also present were Executive Director Tanya Ford-Crump and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

I: MINUTES

Motion:

To approve the Minutes of February 24, 2021.

Moved:

Commissioner King

Seconded:

Commissioner Ward

Roll Call

Commissioner King

Yea

Commissioner Marquardt

Yea

Commissioner Ward

Yea

Commissioner Harris

Yea

Passed:

4-0

II: Reports

1. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ford-Crump had no updates at this time.

2. Assistant Director's Report (R1)

Year-End Campaign Finance Reports

Ms. Waxman reviewed the attached summary of School Committee candidate reports.

2021 Municipal Election Calendar

Ms. Waxman discussed the calendar for the 2021 election year. She noted that July 31, 2021, the usual end date for filing candidate nomination papers, falls on a Saturday this year. Therefore, the likely filing deadline may be moved to Monday, August 2, 2021.

The group discussed the impact on operations if City offices remain closed, and what additional procedures may need to be in place to accommodate candidates and campaigns. They also talked about setting the calendar without legislation being finalized regarding deadlines for mail-in ballots and voter registration. The group also brought up design issues with ballots.

Advocacy efforts to encourage the State legislature to make changes that would allow adequate planning

III. Public Comment

John Hawkinson stated that there was a process for advocacy regarding pending legislation at the State House, which includes lobbying members of the General Court. This could be done through a policy order submitted by the City Council.

Motion:

To close public comment.

Moved:

Commissioner King

Seconded:

Commissioner Ward

Roll Call

Commissioner King Yea Commissioner Marquardt Yea Commissioner Ward Yea Yea Commissioner Harris 4-0 Passed:

IV. Action Agenda

Old Business

Commissioner Harris asked if anyone present would like to participate in a potential Zoom presentation offered by Harvard Law School/Equal Democracy Project. Commissioners King and Ward stated that they would be available to attend.

New Business

Commissioner Marquardt stated that with new leadership changes in the upcoming school year with the Superintendent's position that it would be important to meet with the School Committee as soon as possible to ask about using schools as polling locations. Commissioner King stated that he would follow up with the School Committee to schedule a meeting. Ms. Ford-Crump stated that Michelle Tassinari from the Secretary of State's office had recommended local commissions revisit using school locations as polling sites.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for March 24, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:26 pm

Moved:

Commissioner King

Seconded:

Commissioner Ward

Roll Call

Commissioner Marquardt

Yea

Commissioner Harris

Yea

Commissioner Ward

Yea

Commissioner King

Yea

Passed:

4-0

A True Record

Attested by:

Victoria Harris, Secretary

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